(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

National body to monitor quality of education

*151. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state;

(a) whether the National Knowledge Commission (NKC) has recommended the creation of a national body to monitor the quality of education in both Government and private schools;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of Government on the recommendations of NKC;

(d) whether the quality of education in Government and private schools throughout the country is deteriorating day by day; and

(e) if so, by when a national body would be created to monitor the quality of education?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) National Knowledge Commission in a letter submitted to the Prime Minister in February, 2008 has suggested creation of a national evaluation body to monitor the quality of both Government and private schools, using a results-based monitoring framework based on a list of monitorable criteria.

(c) and (e) Education being a concurrent subject, school education primarily comes under the purview of State Governments. There is no hard evidence with this Ministry to suggest a declining standard of education at school level. Pass percentage of schools under Central Government, *i.e.*, Kendriya Vidyalaya and Navodaya Vidyalayas and also of independent private schools affiliated to Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), both at Class X and Class XII standard, have remained stable over the last five years (2003 to 2007) and have in fact incresed slightly. Government has not taken any decision to create a national body to monitor the quality of education, as it is for resepctive States and Educational Boards to look into aspects of quality of school education.

Mahila Samakhya Programme

*152. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: